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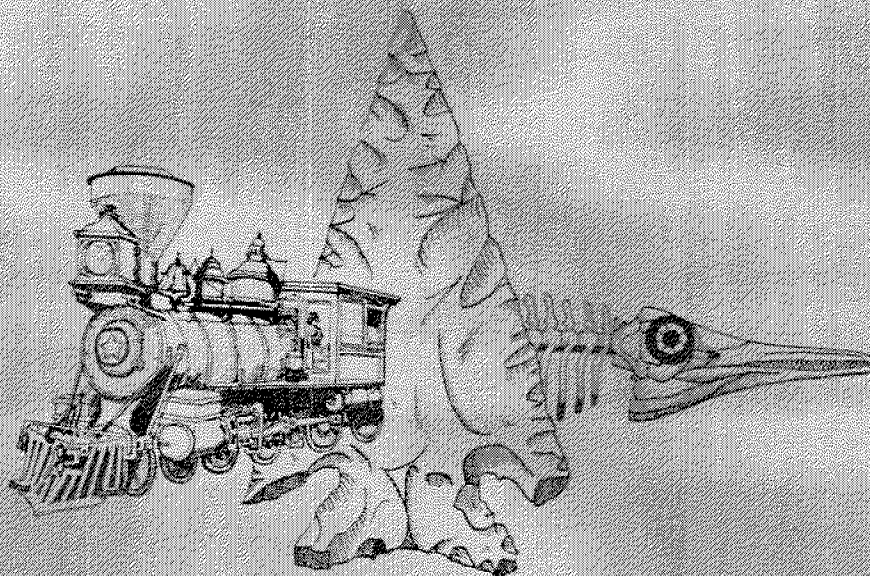
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

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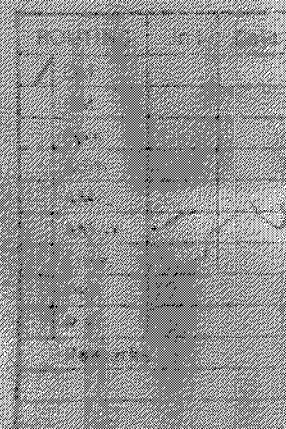
DISTRICT OFFICE
CARSON CITY, NEVADA



STUDIES AT ADAMS-McGILL RESERVOIR

EXERCISES IN APPLYING SMALL PROJECT DATA TO
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

TECHNICAL REPORT-NUMBER 1



RENO, NEVADA



NOVEMBER 1977

STUDIES AT ADAMS - MCGILL RESERVOIR

Exercises in Applying Small Project Data to Archaeological Research

by Robert York

Nevada State Office
Bureau of Land Management
Reno, Nevada

1977

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INTRODUCTION

This is the first publication in the Nevada Bureau of Land Management's Cultural Resources Technical Series. Papers selected for publication here will primarily be short reports that make a small but significant contribution to Cultural Resources Management methodology or in the same way make a contribution to Great Basin archaeology, history, or paleontology.

We have for some time realized the need to find a format that will allow for quick and relatively wide distribution of data generated through reports submitted in connection with various BLM activities and projects. Yet, most of these reports are too limited in scope to justify the expense of a "slick" publication format. Therefore, reports published here will be reproduced through quick print, photo copy methods in a virtually unedited state. We will endeavor to use the best equipment available but, necessarily, quality will suffer. This will be especially evident in map and photo reproductions. We feel this is an acceptable trade-off in order to accomplish rapid distribution of data in an economically realistic manner. Original reports will be available for inspection at indicated Nevada BLM offices.

Series editions will be run in only limited quantities and distributed free-of-charge for the initial run. Requests for copies after exhaustion will only be accommodated at cost. Editions will be consecutively numbered from this first edition. They will be published at irregular intervals as suitable papers are available, staff time is available, and money is available.

Distribution, for this series, will further be limited to the scientific and cultural resources management communities, not only because this is a technical series but also because many reports will contain specific locational information on fragile sites and popular circulation of such data would unnecessarily expose them to vandalism and other illicit activity. The reader is reminded of this continuing problem and is asked to exercise caution in the use of Series data.

These first two papers - "Studies At Adams-McGill Reservoir" - were selected not so much that they add greatly to the archaeology of Eastern Nevada but rather because they have something to say about generation of useful archaeology data in an extremely restricted vehicle, i.e., the Cultural Resources clearance of a livestock driveway and a short road right-of-way. These types of clearances are typical of the kinds of small projects that BLM employed or contracted archaeologists are often asked to investigate and report on. Many archaeologists tend to view such clearances as something they must do to keep fed and clothed until something "worthwhile" comes along. Few seem to view such studies as opportunities to expand the CR Inventory and as ways to contribute to CR Research. We take the view that every time an archaeologist is in the field it's an inventory and research opportunity, if not a professional obligation, albeit, within the bounds of ethical conduct and reason in regards to who is paying the freight. In other words, we see every CR clearance, whether it yields negative or positive results, as another piece in the puzzle (see R. York and J. Roney article, NAS-Reporter, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1977). Even though these reports are limited in scope and the conclusions are simplistic, we believe they demonstrate this philosophy.

The reader will note in these reports reference to a BLM site evaluation system ("S2" "S3") whereby sites were determined not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This evaluation system is still in use but is no longer used as a National Register discriminator. Under current procedures, the subject sites would be considered NR eligible under 36 CFR 800.10(4).

Robert York
BLM, Nevada State Office
November 1977

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY/CLEARANCE REPORT

Date of Field Operations: April 27, 1976.

Archaeologist: Robert York (NSO Cultural Management Specialist).

Project: Nevada Fish and Game Adams-McGill Livestock Driveway Fences.

County: Nye.

BLM District Office: Ely (04).

Resource Area: Schell.

Planning Area: Sunnyside.

Legal Description: Proposed Livestock Driveway in, T. 7 N, R. 61 E,
Section 36, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and Section 25, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

See map enclosure.

Map Reference: USGS Sunnyside, Nevada 7.5' 1969 and AMS Lund 1:250,000
Series.

Consultations/Existing Data Review: No properties currently listed
in the National Register of Historic Places or eligibility lists are
situated within the undertaking's potential impact area (Federal
Register of February 10, 1976, with monthly supplements through
August 10, 1976).

A check of BLM inventory records at the State Office in Reno revealed
no previous work of an archaeological nature in this area.

Amy Dansie of the Nevada Archaeological Survey-Nevada State Museum had
recently concluded another survey in the general area. This survey
did reveal the presence of some sites to the east side of Sunnyside
Creek. However, her work did not take in the specific area of this
undertaking. The reader is referred to her report on file with the
Nevada State Museum in Carson City for further information.

Reasons for Completing a Field Survey and Research Objectives: A
Class 3 Field Inventory was completed to meet Environmental Analysis
and BLM clearance requirements for the following reasons:

1. Class 1 Inventory (Existing Data Review) indicated a definite lack of data on the cultural resources in the area of the undertaking's potential impact.
2. Class 1 investigations showed that some archaeological values had been previously recorded for the general vicinity (A. Dansie Survey). As these sites were recorded in similar environmental circumstances as the area for this proposed livestock driveway, it has reasonable to conclude that there was a significant chance for sites to also occur here.
3. Presumed knowledge of Great Basin Aboriginal settlement patterns - that is, that archaeological sites tend to occur on high ground, near permanent water sources, additionally supported the assumption that there was a significant chance that archaeological sites would occur here.
4. Possible impacts from the completion of this project on unknown cultural resources were assessed as being: Primary - destruction or loss of data through the actual construction of fences; secondary - destruction or loss of data from unsanctioned collecting activities at future dates, destruction of data through concentrating livestock in a narrow corridor.
5. Given the potential high impacts of the proposed undertaking and relative small area involved, a Class 3 Inventory was clearly indicated over a Class 2.

The main research objective was the acquisition of data, for BLM and academic inventory purposes, on an area that is poorly known.

Field Examination Techniques: Both the originally proposed corridor and our recommended corridor, each being a swath of some 20 meters in width by a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in length, were walked-over by myself, with the assistance of Larry Barngrover and Larry Teske (Nevada Fish and Game), on the above date. The walk-over surveys were performed by the length of the corridors in systematic transect fashion; transects were spaced no more than 5 meters apart and each transect was walked in a zig-zag pattern insuring maximum coverage, to meet Class 3 Inventory requirements. When cultural materials were encountered they became the focus of a wider search to determine site significance and size, and recorded. No formal subsurface tests were made, but animal burrows and the sides and back-dirt from some unauthorized postholes were closely examined for cultural indicators.

Given the nature of the possible impacts of this project on cultural resources (see 4. under Reasons...), a wider area than the proposed corridors was not surveyed. However, a small buffer zone, allowing for some deviation, is built-in to the assessed corridors as described above.

Area and Environmental Setting: In general, survey area is located in the White River Valley in the area of the Adams-McGill Reservoir. More specifically, the proposed corridors transect a low terrace of the White River, marked by a line of low bluffs, and the mud flats of the White River flood plain. The White River is no longer an active surface stream. Elevations range from 5170' on the flood plain to 5200' on the stream terrace. Substrates: On terrace, alluvial sands, silts, and gravels - gray to white in color. On flood plain, a thick valley fill of alluvium forming expansive mud flats. Grayish to brown in coloration. Parent materials are apparently limestone formations of the Egan Range, which borders the valley on the east. Vegetation: northern desert shrub on terrace with Artemisia T. and rabbitbrush dominant, with some other unidentified scrub and grasses. Cover is uniformly less than 20 percent. Salt desert shrub community on flood plain, with greasewood and atriplex dominant with some very sparse grass cover. Cover is as well less than 20 percent. Fauna: Small desert rodents and reptiles inhabit area. Waterfowl and fish available in nearby reservoirs and may have been present aboriginally.

Hydrology: Sunnyside Creek is nearest permanent source of water for the survey area. This stream borders the survey area on the east. Water may have been more abundant aboriginally in the White River drainage. In comparison to most of the Great Basin province water is abundant in this area.

Findings: One large archaeological site was recorded, CrNV-04-216 (NSM: 26Ny556). This was an open site situated on the White River terrace. Pueblo black-on-white and brownish Shoshone ceramics along with ground and chipped stone were observed. Some flakes were noted in postholes up to 50 cm. below present ground surface. Site may have subsurface components such as house and/or hearth features. Also, suspect it may be a site of relative permanence associated with the pueblo period in Eastern Nevada. The nature of the White River Valley and proximity to known southwestern type agricultural sites in the Baker area of Nevada, lead one to speculate that the occupants of this site may have had at least a partial agricultural subsistence base. In any event, a thorough subsurface testing of this site should be carried out at a future date. At this point in time site was only recorded (see record for more information) and a few especial items recovered (turned over to Nevada State Museum).

This site was provisionally rated as an "S2" type of site in the BLM's evaluation system. Not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register at the present time.

National Register Recommendations: None at present.

Summary and Mitigation Recommendations: The following mitigating measures are recommended to insure "no effect" to the above archaeological site:

1. Livestock driveway shall be rerouted to avoid site as recommended to Nevada Fish and Game by Bob York on April 27, 1976, see attached map.
2. During actual construction of the livestock driveway fences if antiquities should be encountered, they shall be left in place, and the Ely District Manager of the BLM informed immediately. The Ely District Manager will take measures to recover such data expeditiously so as not to cause undue delay to the project.

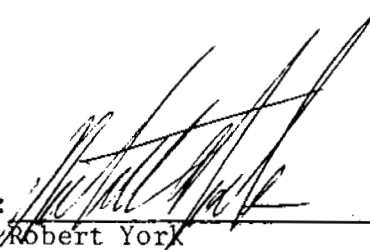
If for some reason these recommendations cannot be followed, this cannot be considered a "clearance" document as further assessment of the site's significance, in the form of subsurface testing by a professional archaeologist, will be needed to more accurately assess site significance and advance other mitigating measures.

Inventory Acres:

Class 3 (Intensive): 80 acres.

Time Expenditure:

Field:	4 hrs.
Office:	16 hrs.
Total:	20 hrs.

Submitted by: 

Robert York
NSO Cultural Mgmt. Specialist

File Date: Sept. 1, 1976

Enclosure:1

Site Record for CrNV-04-216

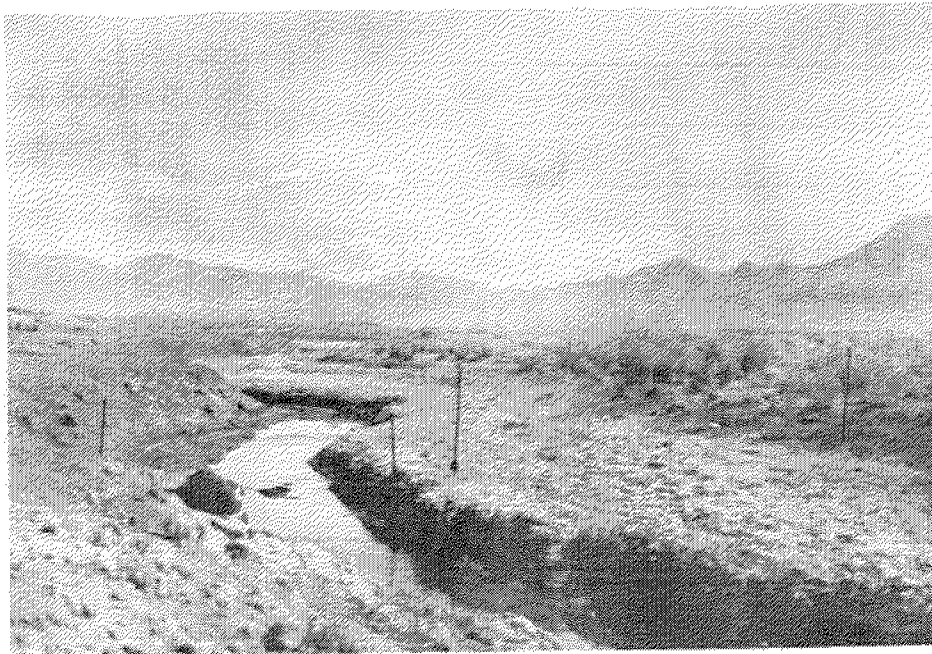
cc:
Nevada State Museum
Larry Barngrover, NDF&G (w/o site records)
UNLV Museum
Ely DM (N-040) (2 cys.)

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Contributions to the Study of Cultural Resources
Technical Report No. 1

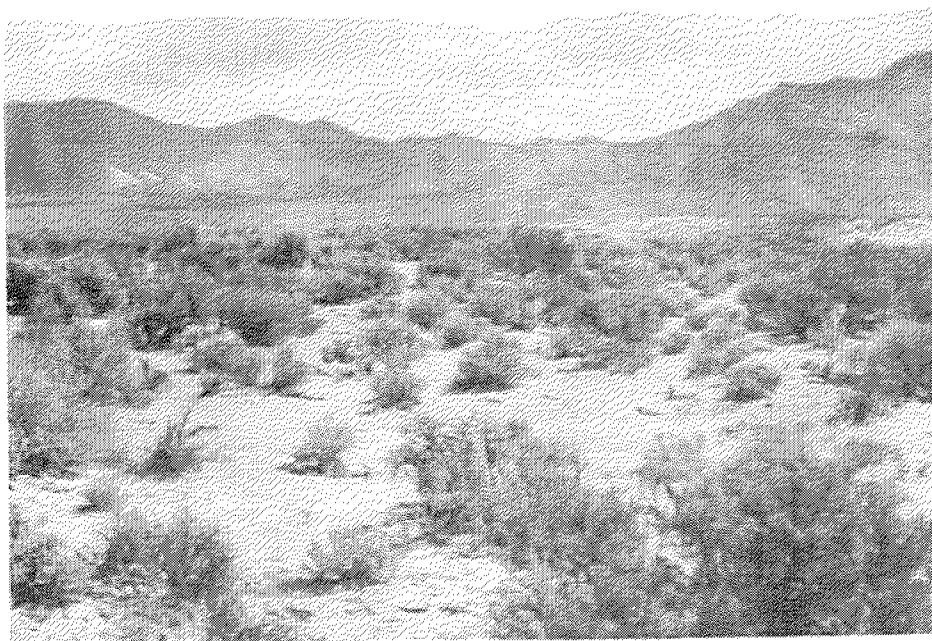
Studies at Adams-McGill Reservoir: Exercises in Applying Small Project Data to
Archaeological Research, by Robert York. 1977

NOTE: The original page containing a map/figure with specific locations of archaeological resources has been deleted from this report in order to protect the confidentiality of the site location. Qualified persons holding a valid Bureau of Land Management, Nevada, cultural resources special use permit with need to examine this information may contact the appropriate BLM field office for further information.

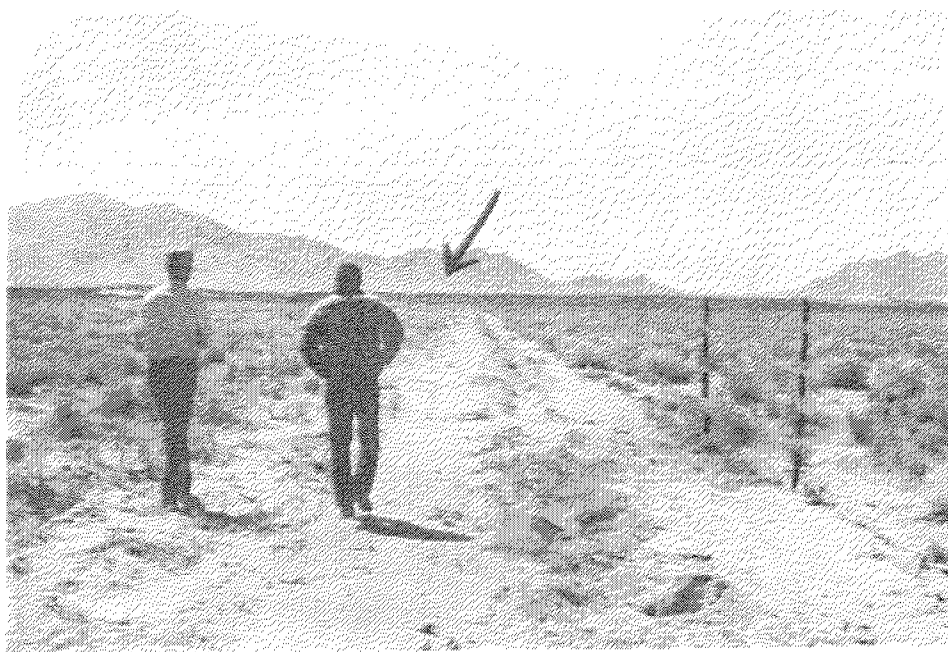
CR Report BLM 4-53(P)
N.F. & G. Adams-McGill Livestock
Driveway Fence. R. York, 4/27/76



CrNV-04-216(NSM:26Ny556). Sunnyside
Creek, east of site. Looking generally
NE.



CrNV-04-216(NSM:26Ny556). Looking
across site area to Egan Range.



Looking SE along originally proposed
fence ROW. Arrow indicates site CrNV-
04-216 on old White River terrace.

Dashed lines indicate appx. re-routing
of livestock driveway to avoid site.

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or signatures in the bottom left corner.]

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY/CLEARANCE REPORT

Date of Field Operations: April 27, 1976

Archaeologist: Robert York (NSO Cultural Mgmt. Specialist)

Project: Nevada Fish and Game Adams-McGill Reservoir, Road ROW on national resource lands.

County: Nye

BLM District Office: Ely (04).

Resource Area: Schell.

Planning Area: Sunnyside.

Legal Description: Proposed road corridor in T. 7 N, R. 61 E; Sec. 25, S $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 26 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$; and Sec. 35 NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

See enclosed map.

Map Reference: USGS ■ Sunnyside, Nevada 7.5' 1969 and AMS Lund 1:250,000, 1956 - revised 1970.

Consultations/Existing Data Review: Same as CR Report 4-53.

Reasons for Undertaking Field Survey & Research Objectives: A Class 3 Field Inventory was completed for the following reasons:

1. Class 1, Existing Data Review, work revealed a lack of CR data for the specific area to be impacted by this undertaking.
2. The potential impacts of the project were assessed as being of a primary nature - through scraping and widening of the existing dirt track by heavy equipment; and secondary and long term impacts were identified as, unauthorized collection of antiquities by road crew members, increased use of road in future-accelerating erosion, and future maintenance of road.

Because a "use" dirt road now exists, and improvements to this road will be relatively minor, the impacts should still be minimal. However, these potential impacts were still felt to be high enough to warrant a Class 3 study of the corridor in the light of a complete lack of CR data for this specific area.

The main research objective was the acquisition of data, for academic and land management inventory purposes, in an area that is poorly known archaeologically. Additionally, this survey would serve as an initial (even though not valid by any known standard) test of an assumption that sites in this area will be associated with the low terraces of the White River drainage -- also, see CR Report 4-53.

We were also interested in (if the terrace association held up) what kind of sites would occur? Would they display pueblo type ceramics such as were observed at CrNV-04-216? Would they be permanent types of camps that might give some support to the possibility that some kind of agricultural subsistence base supported peoples in the White River Valley during Pueblo times? We did not really assume that such a small project could possibly answer such questions, but did hope that data acquired might contribute toward their eventual answers, and possibly develop data that might indicate future lines of inquiry.

Field Examination Techniques: An impact corridor of approximately 20 meters in width by 1.5 miles in length, taking in an existing "use" dirt tract and paralleling the Nevada Fish and Game fence (see attached photographs and map), was walked-out by myself with the aid of Nevada Fish and Game employees Larry Barngrover and Larry Tekse on the above date. This walkover was accomplished in transect fashion by length of the corridor; spacing was approximately 5 meters between transects and transects were walked-out in a zig-zag pattern insuring maximum coverage. A small buffer zone was built in to the impact corridor, allowing for some minimal deviations in construction, equipment maneuvering, and future maintenance. When cultural materials were encountered, they became the focus of a wider search to assess site size and significance. No formal subsurface tests were performed, but animal burrows, road cut, and drainage walls were examined for any indications of cultural materials.

Area and Environmental Setting: See CR Report 4-53 for a description of general area. Specifically, this survey corridor transects the flood plain of the White River and a portion of an old terrace of the White River to the west of Sunnyside Creek. Elevations range from 5170' on the flood plain to 5210' on the terrace. Substrates: Same as 4-53 Report. Vegetation: Salt desert shrub on flood plain, dominated by greasewood and atriplex; less than 20% cover. On terrace, low sagebrush shrub community; less than 20% cover. Looks to be a livestock disturbed pattern? Fauna: Same as 4-53 Report.

Hydrology: Same as 4-53 Report.

Findings: One archaeological site was recorded CrNV-04-217 (NSM: 26Ny557). This site consisted of an open, chipped lithic scatter of relatively recent origin - Shoshone and possibly somewhat earlier - located on the White River terrace in a low area to the south of a sand bluff (see attached photograph). One Elko series projectile point base was recovered from the site. Some possible ground stone fragments were noted, but, no ceramics were observed, nor any indicators of significant depth. Site did not appear to be as substantial as CrNV-04-216. Site, however, does merit further studies to determine depth potential and should be systematically collected for settlement pattern analysis; but, since the road will not appreciably affect the integrity of this site no further analysis was considered appropriate at this time.

A few isolated finds in the form of chert and obsidian flakes were also noted all along terrace. Again, as road widening and use would not appreciably affect the integrity of the terrace, these finds were neither recorded nor salvaged for this project.

National Register Recommendations: None. The above site is rated as "S3" under the Nevada BLM's rating system and is not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register given present information.

Archaeological Conclusions: In regards to research objectives, the archaeological phenomena observed did in fact conform to the prediction that they would occur on the terrace and not on the mud flats. Results which were also verified by the previous 4-53 survey. The site and isolated finds noted, however, did nothing to support the idea of a permanent or semi-permanent agricultural group having inhabited the White River Valley. As site 04-217 looked much more typical of a small seasonal camp used by a nomadic Great Basin group (Shoshone) than did site 04-216. So where are we? Were these sites contemporaneous? Or, do they represent different peoples and different times and functions? Or, combinations of all? Obviously we cannot answer these questions from these initial surveys, but rather raise questions which can be addressed in future projects, and syntheses of project derived data.

Mitigation Recommendations: As road should avoid or only minimally impinge on recorded phenomena, project clearance is recommended with only the standard stipulation:

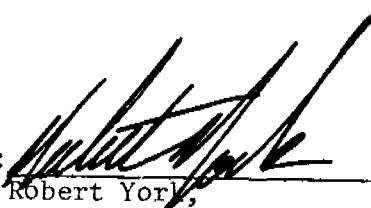
1. If, during activities associated with the improvement of this road, antiquities should be discovered, such finds will be left in place and the Ely District Manager of the BLM informed immediately. The Ely District Manager will take steps to recover such materials without undue delay to the project.

CR Inventory Acres:

Class 3 (Intensive Inventory): 10 acres.

Time Expenditure:

Field:	4 hrs.
Office:	10 hrs.
Total	<u>14 hrs.</u>

Submitted by: 

Robert York,
NSO Cultural Mgmt. Specialist

Date: Sept. 2, 1976

Enclosure:1

Site Record CrNV_04-217

cc:

Nevada State Museum

UNLV Museum

Larry Barngrover (Nevada Fish & Game)

Ely DM (N-040)

Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Contributions to the Study of Cultural Resources
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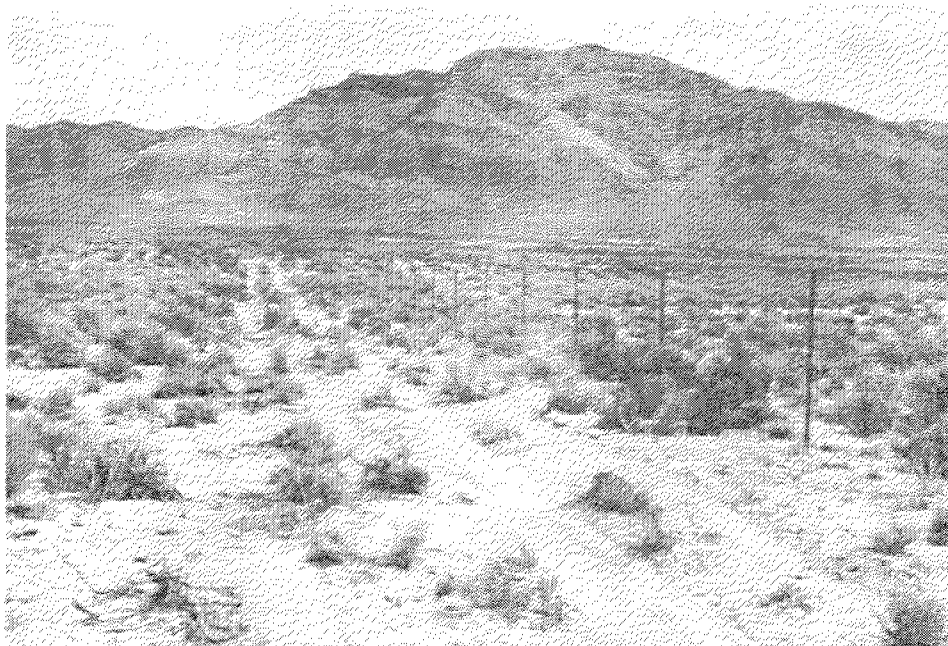
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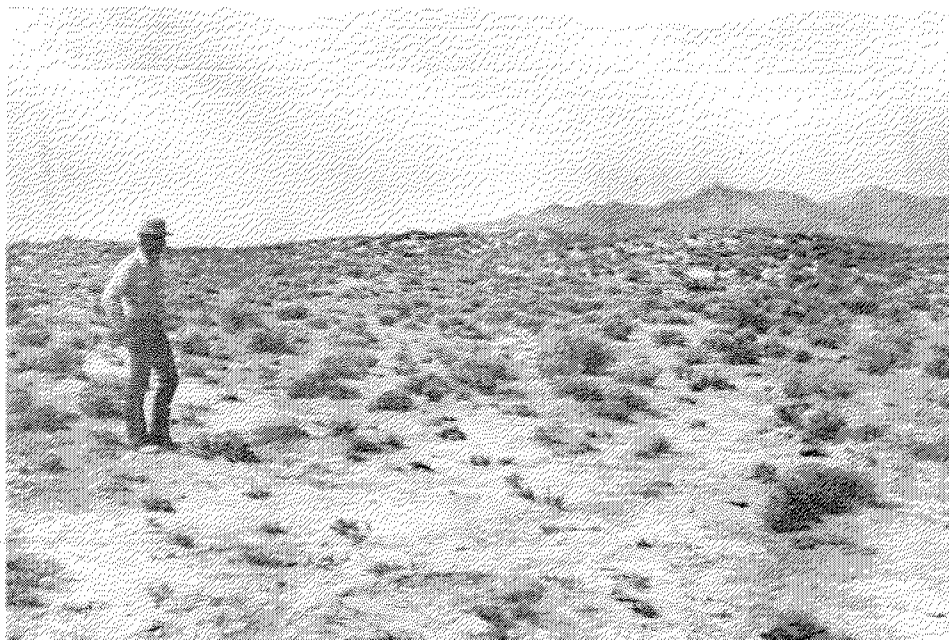
CR Report BLM 4-54(P)

N.F. & G. Adams-McGill Road ROW.

R. York, 4/27/76



Looking generally east along road ROW,
shows existing track. Vicinity of Cr
NV-04-217 on old White River terrace.



CrNV-04-217 (NSM:26Ny557). Looking
north across site area.